

**NEW  
MUSEUM**

**KIDS  
MENU**

---

## MAKE A MOVE

*New Museum Kids Menu provides families with activities to learn about contemporary art and ideas at home.*

Interdisciplinary artist, performer, and choreographer NIC Kay (b. 1989, Bronx, NY) explores identity, community, language, and movement in relation to architectural spaces and the internet. As the 2021 New Museum Artist-in-Residence, they are expanding [#blackpeopledancingontheinternet](#), an ongoing exploration of Black and queer internet cultures, and the creation, documentation, and circulation of African diasporic dance/movement practices and related music. As part of this project, NIC is posting ninety-two videos of movements—collectively titled *form in a sentence*—on [Instagram](#), Twitter, and other social media platforms. They create these site-specific movements in response to indoor and outdoor spaces, such as sidewalks and the airport.



“I’m working on a project called [#blackpeopledancingontheinternet](#). I’m interested in Black people, I like watching Black people dance, I’m a Black person who dances, and I was searching for other Black

people dancing on the internet, typing this into Google. It's something I've been doing for many years... but now I am trying to build more of a world around the hashtag.

I started making videos with my MacBook on Photobooth... At first I was... performing in my house, private space, living room, bedroom sort of thing. Then as I started to build the confidence...I started taking my computer wherever I was, and thinking about, okay, what is happening outside and where do I want to insert myself and take up space and also build a conversation to have different types of audiences, whether live, and also always thinking about how people were going to view the work on the internet...

In many ways all three parts [of the residency] are about memory and how to engage the body actively on the internet. In so many ways, we're often alone... entering these spaces where we're being social with other people, and I want to figure out how to create more connection and help people also... think about their own memories... It's sort of like site-specific work, but on the internet."

— **NIC Kay, New Museum Artist-in-Residence**

To learn more about NIC's choreography, dance, and exploration of Black and queer internet cultures, you can watch the *form in a sentence* video series on their **New Museum Instagram takeover**, which took place June 14–June 20, or follow **@okaynickay** and **#blackpeopledancingontheinternet** on Twitter and Instagram.

## KEY WORDS

- **dance:** to move rhythmically, sometimes following a sequence of movements, and sometimes improvising movements; to move in a lively way
- **site-specific:** art designed for a specific location that is in conversation with the space, often including objects, sound, and/or performance
- **improvise:** to invent or make something, such as a speech, performance, or device, at the time when it is needed without previously planning it
- **choreography:** a sequence of steps and movements in dance planned in advance of a performance by a choreographer or dancer

---

## START WITH ART: NIC KAY

---



- How would you describe NIC's movements, clothing, and body language?
- How would you describe the space in which NIC is dancing? Who and what do you see around them?
- How does NIC respond to the site in which they are dancing?
- Pause the video and try to position your body similarly to NIC's. How does it feel to hold this pose? How do you think NIC feels when making these same movements? What kind of movements might you make next?
- How can NIC's **site-specific choreography, dance, and performances** inspire us to create our own movements in conversation with ourselves, friends and/or family members, and the spaces we select?

---

## MAKE ART

Let's create a performance that records a series of movements designed for a specific space.

### Materials

- A device that records video to use on your own or with the help of a family member or friend
- Clothes that you feel comfortable moving in
- Sound or music
- A site for your performance where you feel safe and have ongoing access
- Optional: a full-length mirror

## Making

1. Pick a space for your performance where you feel comfortable moving around. This can be a room inside your home, or an outdoor space where you feel safe and have access (like a playground, backyard, front yard, or a relative's or neighbor's yard).
2. Play music you like, then improvise movements in response.
3. If you have a full-length mirror, watch yourself move. Alternatively, set up a device to record your movements, or ask a friend or family member to record you. Watch the recording and decide which movements you like, and which you will change.
4. NIC responds to the specific environments in which they perform, including overheard sounds and music. Can you overhear someone else's music playing indoors or outside? Practice moving to overheard music or sounds instead of your own music.
5. NIC improvises movements, creating them in the moment, and choreographs or plans sequences of movements. Decide whether you want to improvise each performance, or choreograph, memorize, and perform a sequence of movements.
6. When your dance is ready, invite friends and/or family members to watch.
7. Instead of, or in addition to, a live performance, make a video of your performance to share with friends and family.

## Reflection

- If you were able to perform live for friends or family members, how did it feel? Was it different from performing for yourself? What kind of feedback did you receive?
- How did you select your performance site? Did you learn anything new about that site? How did your movements respond to the site?
- If you performed indoors, consider trying a performance outside; or if you performed outside, consider performing inside. How does the change of site influence your movements?
- Did you play music for your performance or respond to overheard sounds? How did sound influence your performance?

---

Did someone forward this email to you? If you would like to receive these art activities directly, sign up [here](#).

---



Image: NIC Kay, *form in a sentence* (13 of 92), 2021. A multi-platform movement work including original and found video.

13 of 92

**#blackpeopledancingontheinternet**

Video Description: Black person at the airport wearing blue dancing in frame and at times out of frame. When they are out of frame you see people at their airport with their belongings. The Black person in blue stares into the camera but they are really looking at a screen.

New Museum · 235 Bowery · New York, NY 10002 · USA

**[update your preferences](#)** · **[unsubscribe from this list](#)**